

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising substantially purified human proNGF as the active ingredient, wherein the purified human proNGF is purified to at least about 90% purity and has having an activity in vivo analogous to  $\beta$ -NGF.

9-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF is recombinant human proNGF.

21-25. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the human proNGF has an  $EC_{50}$  value in a dorsal root ganglion (DRG) assay that is at least about 50% of that of human  $\beta$ -NGF on a molar basis.

27. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

28. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.